

**SPEECH BY  
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI  
AT THE LUNCHEON IN HONOUR OF H.E. HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
AT HOTEL MANDARIN ORIENTAL, KUALA LUMPUR  
2 JUNE 2008**

-----

His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba,  
President of the Republic of Namibia;

Honourable Ministers;

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President, I am very delighted to welcome you and your Delegation to Malaysia and to this luncheon this afternoon. We welcome you most warmly, not only as the President of the Republic of Namibia but also as a friend of Malaysia. You have greatly honored us with this visit, which is timely and which bears testimony to the friendly ties that exist between our two countries and peoples.

2. Your Excellency, I recall with satisfaction and good feelings the successful visit that I made to your beautiful country last year in April. I also remember with fond memories the generous and warm hospitality that you and your government accorded me and my delegation during our stay in Namibia. We hope to reciprocate that kindness as much as we can this time.

Your Excellency,

3. We would also like to view your visit as an opportunity to enhance the relations between our two countries in various areas. Indeed, we have had very close ties and cooperation at the political level. We should raise, for example, our trade and investment ties to match the successes we have achieved in the political and diplomatic spheres.

4. I am therefore very pleased that we had a very useful meeting and exchange of practical ideas during our discussions earlier today. On our part, it has certainly increased our resolve to work harder by ourselves, as well as together with you, to bring more mutual benefits for both sides. And I look forward to working closely with you not only on bilateral issues but also to cooperate in seeking solutions to many global and other international problems of common concern to our two nations as responsible members of the international community.

5. As a developing country, Malaysia has learned through experience that peace and stability on the domestic front are essential for attaining economic progress and prosperity at the national level. We have also learned from that experience that the solution to problems caused by poverty and underdevelopment lies not only in the construction of infrastructure and the provision of social amenities but also investment in human capital. People need to be provided with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to become useful citizens. Thus equipped, they will then be able to uplift themselves economically and socially, and contribute to the well being of the society and the nation at the same time.

6. It is our awareness of the urgency of eradicating poverty everywhere in the world, and the imperative of imparting knowledge and skills to achieve this purpose, that Malaysia will continue with its Malaysian Technical Assistance Programme for other developing countries. We would certainly wish to have Namibia as one of the countries that shall continue to benefit from this Programme. We know that the contributions we can make are modest but we do pledge to do our part to help build individual and institutional capacities in Namibia.

7. I am happy to note that progress has been made in this matter since my visit to Namibia last year. I know that a delegation from the National Planning Commission of Namibia has come and met with their Malaysian counterparts. They have exchanged views and ideas regarding mechanisms to monitor the Third National Development Plan of Namibia. I am confident that Namibia will succeed and achieve its targets of uplifting the socio-economic standing of Namibia's people, in the context of Namibia's national quest of achieving developed-nation status by the year 2030.

Your Excellency,

8. In the wake of unprecedented increases in the price of oil, as well as the prices of other commodities especially food items, we need to identify ways and means of managing these problems so as to minimize their negative impacts on the livelihood of our peoples. We need to cooperate more vigorously in the area of agriculture especially in exploiting to the fullest the potentials for increasing food production. And I do believe that boosting our trade relations and increasing investment in other cooperative ventures between ourselves will also help.

9. We are aware that Namibia is embarking upon major economic projects such as developing the Walvis Bay port as a major gateway into your country. Malaysian exporters can certainly use Walvis Bay as the gateway not only to Namibia but also to the wider S.A.D.C [Southern African Development Community] market. We would therefore gladly invite Namibia to view Malaysia as an alternative source of its import requirements.

10. I have also been informed that Namibia is actively making its own preparations to welcome the 2010 World Cup to the African continent. I believe this major world sporting event will bring into being many opportunities for investors to be involved in new projects especially in the hospitality, transport and communications and other service providing industries. We will encourage Malaysian investors and other business people to avail themselves of these opportunities. We hope that their Namibian counterparts will equally welcome them as development partners.

Your Excellency,

11. Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you and acknowledge Namibia's continued support for the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) and the Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID). Namibia's role, in particular your own active participation at the L.I.D 2007, had enhanced the quality of interactions we had with the other government leaders and captains of industry who have dedicated themselves to promoting smart partnerships in the spirit of south-south cooperation.

Your Excellency,

12. Before I conclude, let me wish you a very pleasant and enjoyable stay in our country. It is also my hope that you will have the opportunity to see some of our interesting sights and experience the friendliness of the Malaysian people.

13. Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen, may I invite you now to rise, and join me in a toast to the continued good health of His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, and to the continued success of the government and people of Namibia.

I thank you.